

**No. 124. An act relating to the Government Accountability Committee and the annual report on the State's population-level outcomes.**

(S.198)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 970 is amended to read:

§ 970. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

(a) There is created a joint legislative Government Accountability Committee. The Committee shall recommend mechanisms for State government to be more forward-thinking, strategic, and responsive to the long-term needs of Vermonters. In pursuit of this goal, the Committee shall:

(1) Propose areas for the review of statutory mandates for public services that may result in service duplication and to review the alignment of financial and staff resources required to carry out those mandates.

(2) Review the legislative process for the creation and elimination of positions and programs and make recommendations for enhancements to the process that support greater long-range planning and responsiveness to the needs of Vermonters.

(3) Recommend strategies and tools ~~which~~ that permit all branches of State government to prioritize the investment of federal, State, and local resources in programs that respond to the needs of the citizens of Vermont in a collaborative, cost-effective, and efficient manner. Pursuant to those strategies and tools, functions ~~which~~ that are not critical to an agency or department

mission may be recommended for combination or elimination, while other functions may be optimized.

(4) Review strategies with similar aims in other jurisdictions in the context of federal, state, and local relationships.

(5) Determine that data-based program-level performance measures that demonstrate program results have been adopted for the programs in each agency and department.

(6) Determine whether each agency and department is taking actions to achieve the ~~required~~ population-level outcomes set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 2311 that are relevant to that agency or department, as shown by ~~application of the manner in which the data-based~~ agency's or department's program-level performance measures inform population-level indicators.

(7) Ensure that the report set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 2311 regarding population-level outcomes, and indicators and each agency's or department's program-level performance measures, performance data, and descriptions of actions taken, or proposed to be taken, are transparent and readily accessible to the public via electronic publication.

(8) Assess the effectiveness of ~~the performance measures for~~ population-level indicators in measuring progress in achieving population-level outcomes, and annually review population-level indicators in the context of new data development.

(9) ~~Recommend~~ Approve the addition, amendment, or elimination of ~~any performance measures~~ population-level indicators in accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 2311(c).

(10) [Repealed.]

(11) Assess whether and how the State of Vermont should provide funds to nonprofit organizations, including whether grants to or contracts with nonprofit organizations should require results-based accountability.

(b)(1) The membership of the Committee shall be appointed each biennial session of the General Assembly. The Committee shall comprise eight members:

(A) four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House who shall not all be from the same party and at least one of whom shall be from the Committee on Government Operations; and

(B) four members of the Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees who shall not all be from the same party and at least one of whom shall be from the Committee on Government Operations.

(2) ~~The Governor shall appoint one person to~~ Chief Performance Officer shall serve as a nonvoting liaison to the Committee.

(c) The Committee shall elect two co-chairs and a clerk from among its members and shall adopt rules of procedure. The co-chairs shall be a House and a Senate member. The Committee shall keep minutes of its meetings and maintain a file thereof. A quorum shall consist of five members.

(d) During the legislative session, the Committee shall meet ~~at least once a month,~~ at the call of the Co-Chairs. When the General Assembly is not in session, the Committee may meet monthly at the call of the Co-Chairs and may meet more often subject to the approval of the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(e) For attendance at a meeting when the General Assembly is not in session, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses as provided under section 406 of this title; ~~and nonlegislative members who are not full-time State employees shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010.~~

(f) The ~~professional and clerical~~ staff services of the Joint Fiscal Office and the Office of the Legislative Council shall be available to the Committee.

(g) At least annually, by January 15, the Committee shall report its activities, together with recommendations, if any, to the General Assembly. The report shall be in brief summary form. ~~The provisions of subsection 20(d) (expiration of required reports) of this title shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.~~

(h) [Repealed.]

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 2311 is amended to read:

§ 2311. CHIEF PERFORMANCE OFFICER; ANNUAL REPORT ON  
POPULATION-LEVEL OUTCOMES USING INDICATORS

(a) Report. Annually, on or before ~~July 30~~ September 30, the Chief Performance Officer within the Agency of Administration shall report to the General Assembly on the State's progress in reaching the population-level outcomes for each area of Vermont's quality of life set forth in subsection (b) of this section by providing data for the population-level indicators that are ~~requested~~ approved pursuant to the process set forth in subsection (c) of this section.

(b) Vermont population-level quality of life outcomes.

- (1) Vermont has a prosperous economy.
- (2) Vermonters are healthy.
- (3) Vermont's environment is clean and sustainable.
- (4) Vermont's communities are safe and supportive.
- (5) Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.
- (6) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential,

including:

- (A) Pregnant women and young people thrive.
- (B) Children are ready for school.
- (C) Children succeed in school.
- (D) Youths choose healthy behaviors.

(E) Youths successfully transition to adulthood.

(7) Vermont's elders and people with disabilities and people with mental conditions live with dignity and independence in settings they prefer.

(8) Vermont has open, effective, and inclusive government ~~at the State and local levels~~ with a supported, motivated, and accountable State workforce.

(9) Vermont's State infrastructure meets the needs of Vermonters, the economy, and the environment.

(c) ~~Requesting~~ Approving population-level indicators.

(1) Annually, on or before March 1, a standing committee of the General Assembly having jurisdiction over a population-level quality of life outcome set forth in subsection (b) of this section or the Chief Performance Officer may submit to the Government Accountability Committee a request that any population-level indicator related to that outcome be revised.

(2) If that request is approved by the Government Accountability Committee, ~~the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House,~~ the Chief Performance Officer shall revise and report on the population-level indicator in accordance with ~~the request~~ that approval and this section.

(d) The report set forth in this section shall not be subject to the limitation on the duration of agency reports set forth in 2 V.S.A. § 20(d).

Sec. 3. 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 186 (an act relating to reporting on population-level outcomes and indicators and on program-level performance measures), Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. INITIAL POPULATION-LEVEL INDICATORS

Until any population-level indicators are ~~requested~~ approved pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 2 of this act, 3 V.S.A. § 2311(c) (~~requesting~~ approving population-level indicators), each population-level quality of life outcome set forth in Sec. 2 of this act, 3 V.S.A. § 2311(b) (Vermont population-level quality of life outcomes), and listed in this section shall have the following population-level indicators:

(1) Vermont has a prosperous economy.

(A) percent or rate per 1,000 jobs of nonpublic sector employment;

(B) median household income;

(C) ~~percent of Vermont covered by state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure;~~

~~(D)~~ median house price;

~~(E)~~(D) rate of resident unemployment per 1,000 residents;

(E) annualized unemployment rate;

(F) percent of ~~structurally deficient bridges, as defined by the Vermont Agency of Transportation;~~ and

~~(G) percent of food total farm sales that come from Vermont farms;~~

(G) percent of fruit and vegetable farms by sales outlet;

(H) increase in gross working lands income over previous year, for grantees of Working Lands Program; and

(I) number of farmers' markets.

(2) Vermonters are healthy.

(A) percent of adults 20 years of age or older who are obese;

(B) percent of adults smoking cigarettes;

(C) number of adults who are homeless;

(D) percent of ~~individuals and families~~ population living at different below the federal poverty levels level;

(E) percent of adults at or below 200 percent of federal poverty level 18–64 years of age with health insurance; and

(F) ~~percent of adults with health insurance~~ rate of suicide per 100,000 Vermonters;

(G) fall-related death per 100,000 adults 65 years of age or older;

(H) rate of Vermonters with mental health conditions getting help for those conditions; and

(I) number of Vermont food recall incidents.

(3) Vermont's environment is clean and sustainable.

(A) cumulative number of waters subject to TMDLs or alternative pollution control plans;

(B) ~~percent of water, sewer, and stormwater systems that meet federal and State public drinking water supplies in compliance with~~ health-based standards;

(C) ~~carbon dioxide per capita~~ total greenhouse gas emissions per capita, in units of annual metric tons of equivalent carbon dioxide per capita; and

(D) ~~electricity by fuel or power type~~ percent of Vermont retail electric sales from renewable energy;

(E) percent of river miles with water quality that meets designated uses;

(F) percent of watersheds in Vermont where pollutant loads are declining;

(G) percent of previously impaired waters meeting standards based on corrective actions;

(H) total number of days with air quality alerts;

(I) disposal rate of municipal solid waste in pounds per person per day; and

(J) total number of acres that have been or will be cleaned up or redeveloped based on sites enrolled in the Brownfields Program.

(4) Vermont's communities are safe and supportive.

(A) rate of petitions granted for relief from domestic abuse per 1,000 residents;

(B) rate of violent crime per 1,000 crimes;

(C) rate of sexual assault committed against residents per 1,000 residents;

(D) percent of residents living in affordable housing;

(E) percent or rate per 1,000 people convicted of crimes of recidivism;

(F) incarceration rate per 100,000 residents; ~~and~~

(G) percent or rate per 1,000 residents of residents entering the corrections system for the first time; and

(H) percent of population trained in mental health first aid.

(5) Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.

(A) number and rate per 1,000 children of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect;

(B) number of children who are homeless;

(C) number of persons who are homeless (adults and children) in families that are homeless with at least one child; and

(D) number and rate per 1,000 children and youth of children and youth in out-of-home care.

(6) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential, including:

(A) Pregnant women and young people thrive.

(i) percent of women who receive first trimester prenatal care;

(ii) percent of live births that are preterm (less than 37 weeks);  
(iii) rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births;  
(iv) percent of children at or below 200 percent of federal  
poverty level; and

(v) percent of children 17 years of age or younger with health  
insurance.

(B) Children are ready for school.

(i) percent of ~~kindergarteners fully immunized with all five  
vaccines required for school~~ children 19–35 months of age receiving  
recommended vaccines;

(ii) ~~percent of first graders screened for vision and hearing  
problems~~;

~~(iii)~~ percent of children ready for school in all ~~five~~ four domains  
of healthy development; and

~~(iv)~~(iii) percent of children receiving State subsidy enrolled in  
high quality early childhood programs that receive at least four out of five stars  
under State standards.

(C) Children succeed in school.

(i) rate of school attendance per 1,000 children;

(ii) percent of children below the basic level of fourth grade  
reading achievement under State standards; and

(iii) rate of high school graduation per 1,000 high school students.

(D) Youths choose healthy behaviors.

(i) rate of pregnancy per 1,000 females 15–17 years of age;

(ii) rate of pregnancy per 1,000 females 18–19 years of age;

(iii) percent of adolescents in grades 9–12 smoking cigarettes;

(iv) percent of adolescents in grades 9–12 who used marijuana in the past 30 days;

(v) percent of adolescents who reported ever using a prescription drug without a prescription;

(vi) percent of adolescents in grades 9–12 who drank alcohol in the past 30 days; and

(vii) number and rate per 1,000 minors of minors who are under the supervision of the Department of Corrections.

(E) Youths successfully transition to adulthood.

(i) percent of high school seniors with plans for education, vocational training, or employment;

(ii) percent of graduating high school seniors who continue their education within six months of graduation;

~~(iii) percent of all deaths for youths 10–19 years of age;~~

~~(iv) rate of suicide per 100,000 Vermonters;~~

~~(v) percent of adolescents with a suicide attempt that requires medical attention;~~

~~(vi)~~(iv) percent of ~~high school graduates entering~~ students who graduated with a regular high school diploma and enrolled in postsecondary education, work, or training within 16 months after high school graduation;

~~(vii)~~(v) percent of ~~completion of postsecondary education~~ students who graduated with a regular high school diploma and enrolled in postsecondary education within 16 months after high school graduation, and persisted in postsecondary education for at least three semesters within two academic school years; and

~~(viii)~~(vi) ~~rate of high school graduates entering a training program per 1,000 high school graduates~~ percent of students who graduated with a regular high school diploma and enrolled in postsecondary education within 16 months after high school graduation, and graduated from an institution of higher education within six academic school years.

(7) Vermont's elders and people with disabilities and people with mental conditions live with dignity and independence in settings they prefer.

(A) rate of confirmed reports of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults per 1,000 vulnerable adults;

(B) percent of elders living in institutions versus receiving home care; ~~and~~

(C) number of people with disabilities and people with mental conditions receiving State services living in each of the following: institutions, residential or group facilities, or independently;

(D) percent of people served in Choices for Care who are living in each of the following: institutions, residential or group facilities, or independently;

(E) number and percent of adults with severe, persistent mental illness who are living in each of the following: institutions, residential or group facilities, or independently;

(F) employment rate of people with disabilities who are of working age; and

(G) employment rate of people 65 years of age or older.

(8) Vermont has open, effective, and inclusive government ~~at the State and local levels~~ with a supported, motivated, and accountable State workforce.

~~(A) percent of youth who spoke to their parents about school~~ State employees participating in the voluntary employment engagement survey who responded that:

(i) they are satisfied overall with their job;

(ii) they would recommend the State as a great place to work;

(iii) they are encouraged to share ideas on efficiency;

(iv) their supervisor regularly provides timely and useful feedback; and

(v) their performance evaluations are completed annually;

~~(B) percent of youth who report they help decide what goes on in their school~~ State employees who voluntarily leave State service;

(C) percent of ~~eligible population~~ registered voters voting in the general elections election;

(D) percent of ~~students volunteering in their community in the past week~~ State contracts that include performance measures;

(E) percent of ~~youth who feel valued by their community grants awarded that include performance measures~~; and

(F) ~~percent of youth that report their teachers care about them and give them encouragement~~ number of Lean events successfully completed.

(9) Vermont's State infrastructure meets the needs of Vermonters, the economy, and the environment.

(A) percent of Vermont covered by state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure; and

(B) percent of structurally-deficient bridges, as defined by the Agency of Transportation.

#### Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Date Governor signed bill: May 23, 2016